

If you adopt Senator Pirsch's amendment, then the punishment for selling an ounce of marijuana near a school is greater than the punishment for selling a pound of marijuana near a school. Because if you sell an ounce near a school, the minimum punishment is \$200, that is for an ounce or less, because that is written into the law. But if you sell a pound near a school, that is bumped up to a Class I misdemeanor which has no minimum. So if you are going to sell these drugs near a school, sell a pound of marijuana because there is no minimum.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers. (Gavel.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is all right.

PRESIDENT: Could we please hold the conversation down so...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, I am enjoying what I am saying so much, if nobody else hears me (interruption).

PRESIDENT: Yes, but I wanted to hear you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, okay, Mr. Chairman. This means that if I have got a pound of marijuana and, Senator Smith, for those who might not know it, I can make a lot of joints with a pound of marijuana because I can make a goodly number...a fair number with an ounce. If I sell a pound near the school, the minimum punishment is nothing. If I sell an ounce or less, the minimum punishment is \$200. So common sense will tell you to commit the crime, if you are going to commit the one, that carries the lesser punishment. So the lesser punishment in this case in terms of the minimum sentence is to sell a pound of marijuana near a school rather than an ounce. I love this amendment. (Laughter). I have said before that the Governor gets some poor advice and counsel over there in that part of the building where she is at, but this time I applaud whoever gave...whoever advised making this amendment a part of Senator Pirsch's 976. So I hope that this will be added to the bill. We have got to show those people who are selling an ounce or less of marijuana near a school that, by God, there is going to be a price to pay. We just happened to have drafted the amendment in such a way that those who sell a pound near the school have a loophole. Legislating can be funny even though it is not designed to be. Many times when things are done in haste and toward the latter part of the session, that becomes necessary if you want to get certain things in a bill that were killed in committee. That